



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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\$946,648 IN ADDITIONAL LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP) FUNDS RELEASED

Chafee Joins Others in Request to President Bush for Additional Funding

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today joined other members of the U.S. Senate at a press conference where it was announced that the United States Department of Health and Human Services has released an additional \$100 million in emergency funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Of this additional funding, \$946,648 has been awarded to Rhode Island.

The award comes at the request of Senator Chafee and 49 other Senators from both sides of the aisle in a letter to President Bush requesting the release \$200 million in funding, of which the Administration has released \$100 million. Senator Chafee has called on the Administration to release the additional \$100 million, as well as a request for \$3.4 billion to be allocated for fiscal year 2006.

“The release of these emergency funds will undoubtedly help struggling Rhode Islanders and citizens across the United States pay their heating bills in this harsh winter season. I applaud the efforts of President Bush in releasing this aid and I call on the Administration to release the additional \$100 million,” Senator Chafee said.

The released funding will provide states with extra assistance, over and above the \$1.6 billion states have received during this heating season and \$100 million in emergency funds awarded last December.

“Americans are facing record high prices for oil, natural gas and propane this winter. As temperatures turn colder, I believe the winter heating crisis that low-income Rhode

Islanders are facing necessitates the need for the release of these funds to insulate and heat their homes,” Senator Chafee added.

Low-income Americans are disproportionately affected by rising energy costs, which consume a larger percentage of their income than that of the average household.

LIHEAP helps eligible families pay the costs of heating and insulating their homes in the winter, and cooling their homes in the summer. Nationally, more than 4.5 million low-income households receive assistance each year.

Individuals interested in applying for LIHEAP assistance should contact their local/state LIHEAP agency or click on the agency directory at: www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/liheap/directry.htm. The directory can help people locate the state or tribal office that administers LIHEAP in communities across the country.

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